

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 6 and 11 as follows:

B₁ sub DC1
1. (Twice Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:
a processor, wherein the processor places bits for describing information different from information of image data obtained by image processing on original image data in specific bit positions of multiple bits of pixel data at predetermined positions of said processed image, each of the pixel data being expressed by using multiple bits.

B₂ sub DC2
6. (Twice Amended) An image processing method comprising:
obtaining first processed image data by performing image processing on original image data; and
placing bits for describing information different from information of said first processed image data in specific bit positions of multiple bits of pixel data at predetermined positions of said processed image, each of the pixel data being expressed by using multiple bits.

B₃ sub DC3
11. (Twice Amended) A recording medium in which a program for a computer is stored, wherein said program is one that enables the computer to perform the following processing:

B₃
placing bits for describing information different from information of image data, said processed image data being obtained by image processing on original image data in specific bit positions of multiple bits of pixel data at predetermined positions of said processed image, each of the pixel data being expressed by using multiple bits.